



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**Because the Bible Tells Me So!**

**Tuesday, 4 February 2014**

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## CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

### 152<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

- TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM in 123 CAP
- TUESDAY @ 12 NOON in 122 CAP

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am *and again* at 12 Noon. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2014 General Assembly is the book of First Corinthians.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as an evidence of my desire to be serving you. – Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

### Capitol Commission Bible Study is

**Tuesday, 4 February 2014**

### I Corinthians 4 – “Because the Bible Tells Me So!”

If you recall your youth, chances are you can easily recollect the answer to the question, “Mom—Dad—why do I have to do that?” The immortal answer is, of course, “because I said so!” The response is one of the great answers of all time, and most of us have heard it at some point in life; and, it can be a very good answer. When young people obey in response to that answer — “because I said so” — they are pleasing God, because He tells them in the Fifth Commandment that it glorifies Him when young people honor their father and mother. Sometimes, even though we did not like the answer as young people, and even though we may have desired to have a more complete rationale supplied to us by our parents for the particular reasons that they wanted us to do something, yet, responding in obedience to “because I said so” was often a good thing for us to do.

In another context, one might expect that the Apostle Paul would give a “because I said so” reason for why the Christians in Crete (to whom the letter to Titus was addressed) ought to obey the commands and the exhortation that he gave in 2:1-10 of the book of Titus. However, in that circumstance, an amazing answer was given as to the reason why the Cretan Christians, and why believers throughout the state of Georgia (and elsewhere) ought to obey the exhortations.

*Titus 2:11-12 – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness*

*and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age. . . .*

Titus 2:11-14 communicates that there is an aspect of the dynamic of God’s grace in which our cognizance of God’s kindness to believers in salvation leads us naturally into the desire to deny the normal lusts of the present age.

First Corinthians 4, however, contains the expected answer as to why the church in Corinth should heed the words therein. The Apostle Paul reiterated that he was an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, and was thus vested with Jesus’ authority to shepherd and to teach, and even to command and exhort the Lord’s church.

First Corinthians 4 is the very inspired word of the Holy Spirit not only for the Corinthian Christians but also for Georgia Christians. Although this chapter contains the exhortations of a spiritual father to his spiritual children, we ought to understand that his words are inspired, and thus God himself is telling us these things. We should heed the words therein because it is the Bible telling us so.

### OBLIGATIONS OF LEADERS

(I Cor 4:1-5) Scripture reveals that “all things” belong to the believer (1 Cor 3:21) and that the Christian belongs “to Christ; and Christ belongs to God” (3:22). Consequently, leaders (in particular) are urged to think of themselves “as servants of Christ” (4:1). Elected officials lead as ministers of God (Rom 13:4). As opposed to being idolized, Christian leaders should be respected as servants of Christ (3:5). The reason is that they are accountable to Christ (3:5-17; 4:1-4), and thus are to be humble-minded (3:18-23) and examples to others (4:5-21).

A servant is someone who takes orders from another (i.e. believers are in the service of God). Every believer is a minister of God (Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:4-7; 1 Pet 2:4-5, 9), and thus every member of the body of Christ makes a necessary contribution to the purposes of God. The body of Christ depends upon all members sharing responsibility in various ways, and thus no person is insignificant within that body.

**CONSEQUENTLY, LEADERS (IN PARTICULAR) ARE URGED TO THINK OF THEMSELVES “AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST” (4:1). ELECTED OFFICIALS LEAD AS MINISTERS OF GOD (ROM 13:4). . . .**

Leaders have accountability before God for their role. Each member of the body of Christ is destined to make contributions and service to the will of God. Consequently, the focus should be not simply upon the obviously gifted individuals; rather, how to exhort each member to service. The late legendary football coach Bud Wilkinson once remarked that Christianity is like football: “There are 22,000 people in the stands who desperately need exercise watching 22 people on the field who desperately need rest.” The body of Christ is

### Capitol Commission Bible Studies

**Tuesday (4 February) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 123 CAP**

**Tuesday (4 February) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 122 CAP**

*lunch provided from sponsorship by Georgia Transmission*



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# Capitol Commission Georgia

## Because the Bible Tells Me So!

not meant to function with only a small group participating and a much larger group spectating.

*What is the requirement for stewards?* The only thing that truly matters for a steward is to be found faithful to the one whose property is managed. God is the one to whom all servants must answer because success will be judged by Him alone (1 Cor 3:2-5). At his coming, the Lord will judge the inner me and the inner you. The wrong motives will be disclosed — “things hidden in the darkness” — so that we will know our hearts (3:5). Those things that are good and proper will be apparent as praise will come to the trustworthy from God (Matt 25:21).

The Corinthians valued eloquence and pretentious human wisdom; however, such is not the biblical standard for evaluating leaders. Christian leaders will be evaluated solely by their standard of fidelity to Christ, thus trustworthiness is properly administering that which God entrusts. *God will honor those who prove faithful to Him!*

### OBLIGATIONS OF FOLLOWERS

(1 Cor 4:6-21) Scripture has much to teach us so that we “may learn not to exceed what is written” (1 Cor 4:6). Verse 6 indicates the importance of loyalty to God’s Word, and in helping others to live by its holy revelation. If the Word of God is authoritative in our life, we will not “become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.” Problems always occur when biblical principles are abandoned or ignored for teaching that exceeds what is written. A very prevalent problem is seeking answers beyond Scripture in troubling times.

Why would anyone boast? Various degrees of excellence may be identified among God’s people, and everything good and proper is “received” by grace. Therefore, all the glory is directed to God for anything worthwhile.

### A VERY PREVALENT PROBLEM IS SEEKING ANSWERS BEYOND SCRIPTURE IN TROUBLING TIMES.

Verse 8 uses sarcasm effectively. The Corinthian Christians regarded themselves as exceptional: “already filled . . . already become rich” and as already enthroned. They regarded the apostles as “last of all” because they were “both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless” (3:9, 11). Verses 12-13 summarize the condition of Paul and the other apostles.

*Acts 5:41 – So they went on their way . . . rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer for His name.*

The point is that these godly, faithful leaders did not behave as those who already received their rewards. The arrogance of the Corinthian believers led them to think of themselves as prudent, stalwart, and distinguished whereas others were foolish, infamous, and weak (3:10). There is always a danger in judging things by sight rather than faith (cf. 2 Cor 5:7; Heb 11:1-2).

Sarcasm can sometimes be effective. The words of 4:8-13 were intended to be convicting and provoking, and the result was beneficial (as evident in II Corinthians). *Should you ever use sarcasm?* Whenever the absurdity of someone’s actions or thoughts cannot be made apparent to them in any other manner, then yes, clever irony may be salutary. However, one should never use such speech in a disrespectful manner (Rom 13:1-6; Tit 3:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-15).

### . . . WE ARE TO IMITATE THE SPIRITUAL EXAMPLES FOUND IN SCRIPTURE, ESPECIALLY OF THE LORD JESUS (CF. PHIL 2:1-11).

The intent of the previous verses was not to produce “shame” without purpose (sometimes shame leading to repentance is positive); rather, the sarcasm was pastoral as evident in the familial words, “my beloved children” (1 Cor 4:14). The irony is similar to the scalpel of a surgeon; it hurt to produce healing. Just as children imitate their fathers and tutors, we are to imitate the spiritual examples found in Scripture, especially of the Lord Jesus (cf. Phil 2:1-11).

*Philippians 2:5 – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

Some accused the Apostle Paul for being “all talk and no action,” thus he concluded his discussion of the divisions among the Corinthians believers by reaffirming his intention to visit Corinth (1 Cor 4:18-21). The attitude of some toward the Apostle was “arrogant” (4:18-19), and their outlook is appropriately stated. Sometimes the best assistance we can provide to someone whose actions and behavior are less than biblical is to provide him/her with an honest appraisal.

God works with power in the lives of his people (4:19; cf. Rom 14:17), not with mere suggestions (1 Cor 4:20). God’s revelation always requires a response. If the Bible indicates disapproval of our actions and thoughts, the response is repentance, so we do not receive God’s disciplinary “rod.” Responsible activity — in accordance with God’s holy Word — results in “love and a spirit of gentleness” (4:21). What better reason do we have to submit ourselves to the purpose and will of God in our lives than because the Bible tells me so?

*Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact us by email or phone.*

### About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state directors are pastors/missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community. State directors also meet personally with many government leaders to proclaim God’s grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel. The mission of Capitol Commission is to reach Capitol communities for Christ—one person at a time, to disciple them, and to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry, wherever God chooses to place them.

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**TUESDAY, 11 FEB @ 7:30AM in 123 CAP**  
**CAPITOL COMMISSION PRAYER SERVICE:**  
**TUESDAY, 11 FEB @ 12 NOON at NORTH WING (CAP)**